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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8, 11, 12, and 13 from further consideration herein.

Please amend claim 4, 7, 9, and 15 to read as follows.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A weatherseal assembly comprising:

a weatherseal having a base region defined by a surface adapted to sealingly engage an associated vehicle body structure, and a first cavity defined by a rib spaced a first dimension from the surface, and a bulbous seal portion;

a fastening peg having a self-piercing end adapted to pierce the surface of the weatherseal;

a helical flange substantially circumscribing a nose;

a shoulder axially spaced from the flange a dimension greater than the dimension of the weatherseal surface whereby the flange and shoulder are disposed on opposite faces of the surface to engage the fastening peg to the weatherseal without compressing the surface; and

a locking assembly disposed adjacent the shoulder and adapted to secure the fastening peg to an associated vehicle body structure.

2. (Previously Presented) The fastening peg of claim 1 wherein the nose includes a thread.

3. (Previously Presented) The fastening peg of claim 1 wherein the nose is conically shaped for piercing and advancing through an associated weatherseal.

4. (Currently Amended) The fastening peg of claim 1 wherein the helical flange includes a leading portion that spirals radially, axially and circumferentially outward from the nose.

5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The fastening peg of claim 6 1 wherein the helical flange merges into the nose at a location spaced axially inward from a terminal end of the nose.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The fastening peg of claim 8 4 wherein the helical flange terminates in a radial edge.

10. (Previously Presented) The fastening peg of claim 9 wherein the radial edge is located approximately 360° from where the helical flange merges into the nose.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The combination ~~fastening peg~~ of claim 44 1 further comprising a base ~~on the fastening peg~~ configured for handling by automated machinery.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of attaching a weatherseal to a vehicle comprising the steps of:

providing a fastening peg having enlarged first and second flanges spaced apart by a first dimension;

piercing the weatherseal with the fastening peg to form an opening in the weatherseal of a diameter less than the first and second flanges;

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partially advancing the fastening peg through a second dimension less than the first dimension whereby the first flange passes through the weatherseal opening and the second flange does not pass through the weatherseal opening; and
wherein the advancing step includes rotating the fastening peg at a first rotational velocity to form the opening in the weatherseal, and subsequently rotating the fastening peg at a slower, second rotational velocity to advance a portion of the fastening peg into a first cavity of the weatherseal.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 comprising the further step of securing the fastener in an opening formed in the vehicle.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the securing step includes axially advancing the fastener in the vehicle opening.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 comprising the further step of mechanically gripping one end of the fastening peg.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the advancing step is terminated after the first flange has advanced through the weatherseal opening.